III. The proceedings of the Assembly commenced at 12 noon on the 15th February 1915. M. Krishnan Nair Esquire B. A. & B. L., the Dewan, presided. There were present A. T. Forbes Esquire, I. C. S., the Resident in Travancore and Cochin ; Captain E. F. Ross, I. A., Assistant Resident ; M. R. Ry. K. Raman Menon Avergal B. A., B. L., B. C. L., Bar-at-law, the Chief Justice, and other heads of departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen.

IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following—

ADDRESS.

"*Gentlemen,*

PRELIMINARY.

By command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I have the pleasure to welcome you to the Eleventh Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1089, in English and Malayalam, will be placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail how the administration of the State was conducted during the year. Dewan Bahadur Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, C. I. E., retired from the office of Dewan on the 11th May 1914/29th Medam 1089, and His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to appoint me Dewan with effect from that date. The record of work embodied in the Report is, therefore, mainly the result of the wise statesmanship, indefatigable energy and masterly guidance of that capable and experienced administrator. He presided over the deliberations of seven sessions of this Assembly, and you are all aware that every representation received, at his hands, the most serious and careful consideration. I may assure you, gentlemen, that you may count upon my earnest continuance of this policy.

2. Their Excellencies the Governor of Madras and Lady Pentland graciously accepted the invitation of His Highness the Maha Raja and visited the State in October 1914.

3. I feel that I cannot proceed further without referring to the great war in Europe, which for the past six months has been convulsing the whole civilised world. We all realise the brave part that the British Empire plays in this titanic struggle and the cause for which the Empire stands—the cause of honor and humanity, of right and justice. There could be no doubt of the ultimate success of the combined forces of England and her noble allies. We could only pray that the final triumph may not be long deferred. The great wave of loyalty that has swept over India from end to end and has manifested itself, not only by word but by action, has drawn closer the ties which bind our Indian Empire to Great Britain. His Highness the Maha Raja has, as you are aware, placed the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and contributed to the War Fund. Your generous response to the appeal made by me for funds in aid of the war has shown how loyally and heartily you sympathise with the noble cause. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the subscriptions up to date have reached the high figure of Rs. 90,000, and I am glad to convey to the public the cordial acknowledgments of His Highness' Government for their liberal and hearty co-operation.

PERSONNEL.

4. Since the last Assembly, there have been some changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Mr. F. J. R. V. Hunt, Officiating Chief Justice of the High Court, left for Europe in December 1914, on three months' privilege leave prior to retirement on pension, after an honorable career in the service. Mr. K. Aiyappan Pillai, B. A., Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate, retired after a long and faithful service of 34 years. Dr. E. Poonen, Senior Surgeon, General Hospital, Trivandrum, with a record of long and distinguished service, retired into private life on a well-earned pension. Mr. S. E. Vaikuntam Aiyar, B. A., B. C. E., Executive Engineer, D. P. W., an able and hard-working officer, retired on the expiry of the long leave

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